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List of the Claims

1. (Cancelled) A genetically altered chondrocyte used for expressing a therapeutic agent, wherein the genetically altered chondrocyte, when delivered to a target region having one or more cells associated with a disorder, expresses the therapeutic agent in such a way as to modify an environment surrounding the one or more cells, wherein
 - (a) said environment is an atypical chondrocyte environment; and
 - (b) wherein the genetically altered chondrocyte does not become a structural component of the environment.
2. (Cancelled) The genetically altered chondrocyte of claim 1, wherein the chondrocyte produces a therapeutic agent selected from the group consisting of a protein, an antibody, a mimetibody, an antigen, a hormone, an anti-inflammatory agent, an antiviral agent, an anti-bacterial agent, a growth factor, a cytokine, an oncogene, a tumor suppressor, a transmembrane receptor, an adhesion molecule, a neurotransmitter, a morphogenetic protein, a differentiation factor, an enzyme, and an extracellular matrix protein.
3. (Cancelled) The genetically altered chondrocyte of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an Erythropoietin protein.
4. (Cancelled) The genetically altered chondrocyte of claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is an Erythropoietin mimetibody.
5. (Previously Cancelled) The genetically altered chondrocyte of claim 5, wherein the cell associated with a disorder is in an atypical chondrocyte environment.
6. (Cancelled) The genetically altered chondrocyte of claim 1, wherein the atypical chondrocyte environment is in an organ selected from the group consisting of the brain, heart, liver, kidney, gastro-intestinal tract, spleen, smooth muscles, skeletal muscles, eye, ganglions, lungs, gonads, and pancreas.